

### REMARKS

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of December 20, 2005, has been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The corrected section, AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS, of the non-compliant amendment filed December 8, 2005, is being submitted herewith.

Full consideration on the merits of the claims based on the reasons set forth in the previous Amendment is respectfully requested.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application; the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned counsel for Applicants regarding the same.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

(INCLUDING ATTORNEYS FROM BURNS DOANE SWECKER & MATHIS)

Date: January 12, 2006

By: Kevin Brayton McGoff

Kevin Brayton McGoff

Registration No. 53,297

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620